

The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot! - Honesty

EXPLANATION:

Teaching students about honesty and trustworthiness involves more than just teaching them not to lie. The picture book *The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot!* by Scott Magoon demonstrates the value of telling the truth and the importance of establishing trust.

GRADE LEVELS: 1–3

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole group discussion and individual letter writing

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 45 minutes approx.

CASEL CORE COMPETENCY: *SELF-AWARENESS*

- Demonstrating honesty and integrity
- Linking feelings, values, and thoughts
- You can learn more about the CASEL framework [here](#)

SCOPE OF TASK:

1. Determine students' prior knowledge by asking them to define the concepts of "truth" and "lie." Questions to probe understanding include:
 - What is a lie?
 - Is it OK to tell lies? Why or why not?
 - What is trust?
 - Why do you think people lie?
2. Establish class definitions of "truth" and "lie." Ask students to help create definitions or examples of lies that can be displayed on the board.
3. Introduce the book *The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot!*, and tell students that today we are going to pay attention to what Ben says and does in the story.
4. Read aloud *The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot!*, or play a narrated version of the story found online.
5. Ask the students to recount what happened in the story:
 - Who were the characters in the book?
 - What was Ben saying?
 - Was Ben being honest?
 - Why might he have been telling untrue stories?
6. Question the students about truth and lies in real life, referring to the ideas in the story when appropriate:
 - Why do you think people lie? (Examples might include not wanting to get into trouble, wanting attention, wishing to embellish a story, etc.)
 - What lies have you told and why?
 - What happens when you lie?
 - How do people feel when they are lied to?
7. Ask the students what Ben could do after he lied and how he should behave toward the people that he lied to.
8. At the completion of the discussion, tell the students about their task:
 - Pretend you are Ben, and write an apology letter to his parents.
 - Remind students of letter-writing conventions (as age appropriate).
 - Explain that the letters should give an apology and provide an explanation for why Ben behaved the way he did.
9. At the completion of the task, students can share the letters they wrote.

RESOURCES:

Magoon, S. (2013). *The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot!* Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books.

